

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 /062 W
-----050113Z 029094 /62

P 042030Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3713

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1781

E. O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, II
SUBJECT: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, THE GOC AND THE USG

REF: A) STATE 48049 B) 76 SANTIAGO 11544

1. THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO EX-PRESIDENT FREI (REF A) WAS
DELIVERED MORNING OF MARCH 4. FREI MOVED FAST; A FEW HOURS LATER
A PUBLIC STATEMENT APPEARED WITH THE TEXT OF THE LETTER,
AND A SHORT LETTER OF THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT WAS DELIVERED
TO THE AMBASSADOR. IN HIS MESSAGE, FREI EXPRESSED HIS PROFOUND
APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER AND SAID IT CONFIRMED
THE HOPES PLACED IN HIM BY SO MANY PEOPLE IN AMERICA, WHO
PLACE TRUST IN HIS HIGH POSITION AND SENSE OF MORALITY. FREI
CONCLUDED WITH THE HOPE SOME DAY TO EXPRESS HIS THANKS
PERSONALLY. EMBASSY POUCHING THE ORIGINAL TO ARA/AND/CH.

2. WHEN EMBOFF HANDED THE LETTER TO A FREI CONFIDANT FOR
DELIVERY, THE LATTER TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE MEETING TO COMPLAIN
OF THE HARM EARLIER DONE THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (PDC) BY ALLEGATIONS
MADE BY EX-AMBASSADOR KORRY (SEPTTEL). HE SAID THESE CHARGES AND
THE GOC EXPLOITATION OF THEM ARE RUINING THE PDC, AND THEREBY THE
ONLY DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE TO THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. MOREOVER,
OPINION WITHIN THE PARTY IS TURNING STRONGLY AGAINST THE USG.
JUSTLY OR NOT, PARTY FAITHFUL HAVE HELD THE PRESENT U.S.
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ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBLE FOR ALLOWING TO PASS UNCHALLENGED THE
ALLEGATIONS ABOUT PDC RECEIPT OF CIA MONEY. HE ADDED RHETORICALLY
THAT HE RISKED HIS OWN REPUTATION WITHIN THE PARTY BY SEEING
SOMEONE FROM THE EMBASSY.

3. THE SOURCE SAID THE EX-MINISTERS OF THE PARTY HAD CONSULTED A
LEADING WASHINGTON LAWYER ABOUT BRINGING SUIT AGAINST KORRY (REF B).

ON HIS ADVICE, THEY DECIDED TO DROP THE IDEA AS UNPRODUCTIVE,
BUT THIS LEAVES THEM COMPLETELY UNDEFENDED WITHIN CHILE.
THEY WANT TO HAVE MADE PUBLIC THE NAMES OF THE TWO MINISTERS
KORRY SAYS TOOK MONEY, SO THAT THE PARTY CAN CONFRONT THE ISSUE.
MOREOVER* THE SOURCE SAID FORCEFULLY THAT THE USG HAD RESPONSIBILITY
TO DENY THE CHARGE.

4. EMBOFF SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE PDC PROBLEM AND HIMSELF WAS
APPALLED BY WHAT WAS HAPPENING. HE NOTED THE USG POLICY NOT
TO CONFIRM OR DENY ALLEGATIONS SUCH AS KORRY'S, AND SAID HE DOUBTED
THE USG WOULD BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO THE INTERLOCUTOR'S REQUEST.

5. COMMENT: THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER WILL GO FAR TO MOLLIFY THE
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND, WE CAN BE SURE, WILL BE FULLY EXPLOITED
BY THEM IN CHILE. WE CAN EXPECT THE GOC TO BE CORRESPONDINGLY
UNHAPPY WITH THE USG, AND TO CONTINUE THE MEDIA CAMPAIGN AGAINST
THE PDC BASED ON THE KORRY REVELATIONS. SOME OF ITS UNHAPPINESS
WILL BE DIRECTED AGAINST THE EMBASSY, WHICH IT WILL ASSUME IS
IN SOME WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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